

*Remarks*

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-44 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 14, 16, 19, 21, 26, 32, 37, and 40 being the independent claims. Claim 21 has been amended. Claims 45-231 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to their resubmission in this or another application should the Examiner's position be reconsidered or reversed in subsequent proceedings. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

In addition, a substitute declaration of the inventors is submitted herewith to overcome the Examiner's object to the prior declaration. It is believed that the substitute declaration satisfies the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.63.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to the previous Amendment as being "in improper format because the claims are not underlined as required by 37 CFR 1.173(d). Also, the amendment is not accompanied by 'an explanation of the support in the disclosure of the patent for the changes made to the claims' as required under 37 CFR 1.173(c)." (Office Action, pp. 2-3.) In compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.173(d), the amendments to the specification and claims have been underlined in the amendments presented above. The explanation required by 37 CFR 1.173(c) is set forth in the table below.

<b>Claim</b>	<b>Support</b>
26	Col. 2, lines 1-18; original application claim 1.
27	Same as claim 26
28	Col. 4, lines 34-38, 64-67
29	Col. 2, lines 51-53
30	Col. 4, lines 39-64
31	Col. 5, lines 27-36
32	Col. 3, lines 41-50
33	Col. 4, lines 59-67
34	Same as claim 29
35	Col. 3, lines 57-58
36	Col. 5, lines 27-36
37	Same as claim 32
38	Same as claim 33
39	Col. 7, lines 12-24
40	Col. 3, lines 41-50, Col. 7, lines 12-24
41	Same as claim 38
42	Col. 3, line 66 - Col. 4, line 11
43	Col. 4, lines 52-58
44	Same as claim 43

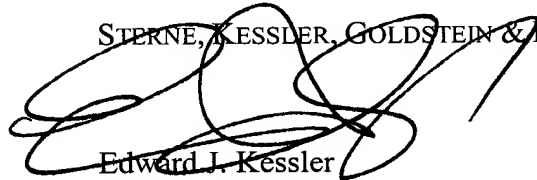
### ***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Kessler', is written over the printed name and firm name.

Edward J. Kessler  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 25,688

Date: 11/19/03

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

199111v2